

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 - 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended): A storage system comprising:

a set of plural disk drive units;

a plurality of disk array controllers coupled to at least one computer via a network; and

a first connection unit connected-coupled between said set of plural disk drive units and said ~~plurality of disk array~~ controllers, said first connection unit configured such that any of said disk array controllers can communicate with any of said disk drive units[[,]];

~~wherein each of said plurality of controllers comprises:~~

~~—— a first circuit in data communication with at least one computer; and~~

~~—— a second circuit in data communication with said disk drive units via said connection unit;~~

~~wherein one of said plurality of controllers is a disk controller comprising a first circuit accepting access from a computer through a block I/O interface, and another one of said plurality of controllers is a plurality of file servers each comprising a first circuit accepting access from a computer through a file I/O interface[[,]]; and~~

a second connection unit coupled between said set of plural disk drive units and said file serves, said second connection unit configured such that any of said file servers can communicate with any of said disk drive units.

~~wherein some of said plural disk drive units holds identification information identifying at least one of said plurality of controllers, and each of said plurality of controllers determines which of said plural disk drive units is accessible based on the identification information held in each of said plural disk drive units.~~

7. (Canceled)

1 8. (Currently amended): A storage system according to claim 6 wherein a  
2 second circuit of each of said ~~plurality of~~ disk array controllers is a fibre channel controller.

9 and 10. (Canceled)

1 11. (Previously presented): A storage system according to claim 6 wherein  
2 some of said plural disk drive units holds said identification information in a specific storage  
3 area in the disk drive unit.

1 12. (Currently amended): A storage system according to claim 11 wherein  
2 each of said ~~plurality of~~ disk array controllers searches identification information in the specific  
3 storage area in some of said plural disk drive units, and determines which of said plural disk  
4 drive units is accessible based on the detected identification information.

1 13. (Currently amended): A storage system according to claim 12 further  
2 comprising a disk pool management unit coupled to said plural disk drive units and a  
3 management console, wherein said disk pool management unit stores identification information  
4 identifying at least one of said ~~plurality of~~ disk array controllers into the specific storage area in  
5 some of said plural disk drive units based on an input from said management console.

14. (Canceled)

1 15. (Currently amended): A storage system according to claim 12 wherein  
2 each of said ~~plurality of~~ disk array controllers performs the determination during system  
3 initialization.

16. (Canceled)

- 1                   17.   (New): A storage system according to claim 6 wherein one of said disk
- 2   array controllers comprises a first circuit accepting access from a computer through a block I/O
- 3   interface.